



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 81

April 21, 2021

Dear MAP members,

How are you doing? That's a common question nowadays and one that MAP wants to focus on during the pandemic and the unrest caused by overt and covert racism – providing support through online MAP meetings, information and a friendly check in. We will keep you up to date with any changes to refugee claimant services as they happen - and ask if you have information that you would like to share with MAP that you let us know at info@mapbc.org

MAP NEWS

- **Next MAP Meeting: TOMORROW!** Thursday April 22 - Part 2 Emergency Planning.
You're never too late to register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocuytpzltGNymaoZSlkshngABkFiJNRUn>
What we learned from the Emergency Planning Survey & How to Solve the Challenges we Face – in working groups.
- Whoops! Still need to complete the survey for an Emergency Response? Go to: <https://mapbc.org/map-emergency-plan-survey/>

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- Please consider sharing Canadian Refugee Council's media advisory and social media for a call to **establish a standard of 6 months to reunite separated children with a parent in Canada (see article inside)**

Thank you for all you are doing to support vulnerable refugee claimants - especially during these unprecedented times. Stay safe and well - and let's not let social distancing be a barrier to the folks we serve.

Jenny Lam and Richard Belcham - and the other Jenny!

IMMUNIZE BC

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS (Now circulated directly to MAP Mailing List)

Government statement on high-transmission neighbourhoods issued. [Province shifts vaccine strategy to include high-transmission communities | BC Gov News](#)

- On this main page, there is a clear distinction with the three streams of vaccination:
[B.C.'s response to COVID-19 - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

- General population

Your vaccine appointment will be scheduled when you are eligible, based on your age.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>

- Priority neighbourhoods

If you're 40+ and live in a high-transmission neighbourhood, book your appointment now.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood>

- Pharmacy program

If you're 40+, you can get the AstraZeneca vaccine now at eligible pharmacies.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/pharmacy>

Government has introduced paid leave for COVID-19 vaccines

[Paid leave for workers to get COVID-19 vaccine | BC Gov News](#)

- BC Pharmacy Association has updated its webpage on the program to list 40-plus eligibility
[AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Pharmacies | BC Pharmacy Association](#)

Stay Informed: gov.bc.ca/COVID, bccdc.ca, 1.88.COVID19

News highlights:

Refugee claimant-related articles from Canada and around the world

April 21, 2021

Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by MAP from across Canada and globally ([PDF attached](#))

*Thanks to Journey Home Volunteer **Barry Growe** for his research and compilation*

- **Appeals court upholds Canada-U.S. asylum-seeker agreement**
Reuters
- **Canada's first major Covid vaccination clinic could be a model for major employers**
Toronto Star
- **New pathway to permanent residency for over 90,000 essential temporary workers**
IRCC
- **Ontario charged with violating the Charter with inequitable vaccine rollout**
Toronto Star
- **Leaders keeping community spirit alive this Ramadan, feeding refugees**
Leader Post, Regina
- **Signs of progress in Trudeau's foreign policy**
Hamilton Spectator
- **Pakistan launches drive to issue smart cards to 1.4 million registered refugees**
UNHCR
- **Founder of charity that gifted 1300 bikes to refugees up for for Pride of Scotland award** Daily Record, Scotland

Federal Court of Appeal decision disappointing but acknowledges ineffectiveness of review process

The Canadian Council for Refugees, Amnesty International and The Canadian Council of Churches responded with disappointment to the Federal Court of Appeal's decision overturning the lower court's ruling that the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) is unconstitutional.

Although it allowed the government's appeal, the Court pointed to potential shortcomings in the review process for the Safe Third Country Agreement. The evidence is overwhelming that the US is unsafe for many refugees – yet Canada's review process has not led the government to revoke its designation of the US as a safe third country. We call on the government to recognize that the US is not safe and suspend the Agreement.

As was the case in the first legal challenge of the Safe Third Country Agreement, the Federal Court of Appeal overturned the Federal Court's finding that the Agreement was unconstitutional on the basis of how the arguments were framed. The Court suggests an alternative way the case could have been presented – by attacking the review process for the Safe Third Country Agreement. However, this approach would be impractical, given that the government asserts a right to confidentiality of the evidence about the reviews it conducts.

The organizations are particularly disappointed that the Court does not engage with the substantial evidence before it that people sent back to the US under the Safe Third Country Agreement suffer serious rights violations in detention in the US. Shockingly, the Court even suggests that because refugees are already suffering psychologically, the impact of suffering caused by detention may not need to be considered when determining whether their treatment is "cruel and unusual".

Neither the Federal Court nor the Federal Court of Appeal addressed the evidence that the Safe Third Country Agreement has particularly negative consequences for women because the US does not properly protect people fleeing gender-based persecution.

Under the Safe Third Country Agreement, most refugee claimants who arrive at an official border post seeking protection in Canada are denied entry and turned back to the US. Because the agreement only applies at official border crossings, many refugees have been forced to cross the border in between ports of entry, sometimes in perilous conditions. Withdrawing from the Agreement would not only ensure that Canada meets its Charter and legal obligations, but would also allow people to present themselves in an orderly way at ports of entry, ending the need for irregular crossings.

Media contacts:

Lucy Scholey, Media Relations, Amnesty International Canada (English branch), 613-853-2142, lscholey@amnesty.ca

Andréa Viens, Communications Coordinator, Canadian Council for Refugees, media@ccrweb.ca

Dr. Nicole Roccas, Communications Coordinator, The Canadian Council of Churches, 416-972-9494, communications@councilofchurches.com

For more information:

• Testimony of STCA Refugee Claimants: [amnesty.ca/blog/refugee-claimants-speak-testimonies-stca](https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/refugee-claimants-speak-testimonies-stca)

• Summary of the decision of the Federal Court of Appeal: [fca-caf.gc.ca/fca-caf/pdf](https://www.fca-caf.gc.ca/fca-caf/pdf)

• Decision of the Federal Court: [decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/fc-cf/decisions/en/item/482757](https://www.decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/fc-cf/decisions/en/item/482757) Backgrounder: [ccrweb.ca/en/why-US-not-safe-challenging-STCA](https://www.ccrweb.ca/en/why-US-not-safe-challenging-STCA)



FREE

ONLINE TRAINING

FOR YOUTH 15-29



Start it Right! Employment Program

For temporary resident youth

Not eligible for WorkBC or other employment programs? Get the **job support and confidence to **START** your career **RIGHT!****

Join our free program to:

- Develop your leadership skills by participating in a community project
- Enhance your skills and confidence to access the job market in Canada
- Receive industry-recognized training certifications
- Gain insights into the Canadian workplace culture
- Network and develop peer connections by participating in group workshops

Who's eligible?

- Youth aged 15-29
- Refugee claimants, international students and temporary workers or residents
- Unemployed or working less than 20 hours per week

REGISTER

- 📞 604-547-2753
- ✉️ youthjobs@dcrs.ca
- 🌐 dcrs.ca/youthjobs



FUNDING BY:



Foundation

VISIT US AT [DCRS.CA](https://dcrs.ca) | FOLLOW US @[DIVERSECITYBC](https://twitter.com/DIVERSECITYBC)    

Poster also attached



This Friday is our 2021 AGM & Celebration!
Are you planning to join us?

Join us at 7:00 PM - 7:40 PM **Annual General Meeting**
7:40 PM to 8:30 PM **Celebration 2021**
Join us for one part or both

- 1. Lessons from 15 years of serving refugee claimants.** James will be sharing stories and lessons from his many years of caring and giving as he prepares to move on from his role as our first Executive Director.
- 2. Lives impacted throughout our current pandemic.** Hear stories of how Journey Home Community responded.
- 3. Our vision for the future.** Hear James (current ED) and Brad (future ED) share plans and dreams for the future.

[REGISTER](#)

To find out more about the event or if you have any questions, call Doug at 778-242-1227 doug@journeyhomecommunity.ca

To find out more about Journey Home Community, visit our website <https://www.journeyhomecommunity.ca>



Save the Date!

Thursday May 27th, 2021
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

RESERVATIONS

- We will begin our time together by sharing an online experience called "A Walk in Refugees Shoes"
- Then you will hear the stories of those who have had to flee and what they experienced in their leaving and their arrival to Canada.
- In break-out rooms you will interact and discuss what you have experienced with others gathered around their own kitchen tables.

This event provides funds for the support of refugee claimant families. "Round the Kitchen Table" is by donation - we encourage you to consider joining the many who choose to support refugee claimants through their monthly giving. See www.journeyhomecommunity.ca



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés Canadian Council for Refugees

CCR members are invited to a virtual meeting on **Taxes: Newcomers Benefits and Credits on Friday 23 April 2021**. Tax filing season often rhymes with "argh"... Even more so with all the new benefits and credits put in place by the government as part of the COVID-19 measures.

As the deadline for filing our taxes is upon us, we would like to invite you to an information session presented by the Canadian Revenue Agency on "Newcomers Benefits and Credits" that will help you move from "argh" to "aah".

This session will cover the various benefits and credits that may be of interest to our members as well as a Q&A period for members to ask all their specific questions.

If you have already filed your taxes and would still like to attend the session for learning purposes, please don't hesitate to join us!

Resource persons

Arleigh Hrycaiko-Assié and **Donavin Robinson**, Outreach Officers for the Outreach Program, Canada Revenue Agency.

MEETING DETAILS

When: Friday 23 April 2021

10am Pacific

The meeting will last 90 minutes.

Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwode-tqDMuGt0pb1kBKb_frH2yEZn7qHHd

A [version in French of the same virtual meeting](#) will take place on Tuesday 20 April.

Book Launch: *A Companion to Greeks Across the Ancient World*
edited by Franco De Angelis for the series Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World

Friday, April 30

Speaker: Dr. Franco De Angelis (Professor of Greek History and Archaeology, UBC)

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (PDT)

Mobility, migration, and diaspora have become central themes in the humanities and social sciences, and the study of the ancient Greeks as a history of mobility and connectivity is no exception.

RSVP Link: Please register [here](#). For more information please visit our website [here](#).

New Book

***The Comparative Politics of Immigration: Policy Choices in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) by Antje Ellermann (UBC)**

About the book: Many governments face similar pressures surrounding the hotly debated topic of immigration. Yet, the disparate ways in which policy makers respond is striking. *The Comparative Politics of Immigration* explains why democratic governments adopt the immigration policies they do. Through an in-depth study of immigration politics in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States, Antje Ellermann examines the development of immigration policy from the postwar era to the present. The book presents a new theory of immigration policymaking grounded in the political insulation of policy makers. Three types of insulation shape the translation of immigration preference into policy: popular insulation from demands of the unorganized public, interest group insulation from the claims of organized lobbies, and diplomatic insulation from the lobbying of immigrant-sending states. Addressing the nuances in immigration reforms, Ellermann analyzes both institutional factors and policy actors' strategic decisions to account for cross-national and temporal variation.

Available for purchase at [Cambridge](#), or [Amazon](#).

Receive 20% discount at Cambridge using this code: (TCPOI2021)



- *Acknowledging Rivka Augenfeld (CCR member) for sharing this excellent interview with Prof James Hathaway concerning the UN Refugee Convention and issues of current concern.*

• *See:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9dYwmnBphs>

The Ethics Centre

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) called today on the federal government to **establish a standard of 6 months to reunite separated children with a parent in Canada**. Currently, many children wait years to be reunited with one or both parents in Canada, while the government processes the immigration application.

One mother, who has already been waiting almost two years for immigration processing in order to reunite with her children, says:

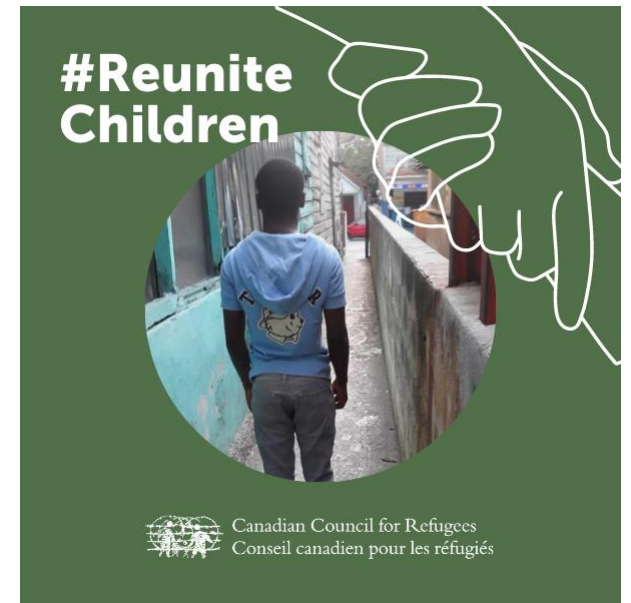
"I am frightened for my children, they are not safe, they cannot go to school, they are at risk of being kidnapped. They are constantly saying that they want to see me ... it breaks my heart."

Another mother says:

"Nowhere in the whole world should parents and children be separated for such a long time. The children I carried are not with me. What I feel inside me every day, the emotional pain, prevents me from being the person I can be. My children are at risk and I live in fear and desperation."

We invite you to amplify the conversation by:

- Sharing [our media release](#) in your networks
- Reading and sharing [the stories of children and parents awaiting reunification](#)
- Support our call by [writing to your Member of Parliament](#)
- Sharing our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts





Rainbow Refugee Society continues to support LGBTQ refugee and refugee claimants during the pandemic. We are holding two virtual drop-in groups a week, on Thursdays and Sundays. To connect with us, please contact our In-Canada Support Manager, Nazanin, at support@rainbowrefugee.ca

Dear MAP Members and friends

At the last MAP meeting we began the process of planning for what would happen if there was a sudden increase in the number of people arriving in BC to seek refugee protection.

Part of the planning process is to map what services currently exist for refugee claimants, how they can be expanded through community connections and networks, as well as some of the gaps and challenges that exist. We also want to provide space for ideas and innovations from our membership and beyond to respond to any increase.

Like many other organizations that are planning how to respond, we have no definitive data on what will happen. There are many variables that might affect any increase, including a decision about the Safe Third Country Agreement, COVID vaccines, travel restrictions and the re-opening of the Canada/US border. We aren't making any predictions – but we are working to create a plan that will help us all to respond.

Therefore, we are writing to ask if your organization would please complete our emergency planning survey. You can find the survey here:
<https://mapbc.org/map-emergency-plan-survey/>

Some notes about the survey:

- Please complete only one survey for each organization
- Please forward the link to other organizations who you know that might not be members of MAP, but may provide services for refugee claimants
- Remember, this is for planning purposes only, and so when submitting ideas or suggestions please don't be concerned about funding
- Please complete the survey in conjunction with other members of your organization – it's important that everyone is involved

We are so grateful to be working with such amazing people who are working together to serve refugee claimants across BC. Thank you in advance, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Jenny Lam, Richard Belcham and Jenny Moss
MAP BC Executive

Statistics Canada is delighted to invite you to our **free** upcoming webinars and information sessions. These sessions provide valuable information on relevant and current statistical topics in two distinct formats.

How do these sessions differ?

Webinars are live online presentations that conclude with a poll. Information sessions are a new series to Statistics Canada. They are live online presentations that may include interactive components during the sessions, will feature a question and answer period, and conclude with a poll.

Please note: Advanced registration is required. As spaces are limited, please register early! If a session becomes full and you would like to attend a future session, please email us at statcan.westinfo-ouestinfo.statcan@canada.ca. See below for more information.

Information Session: Considerations for Displaying Data using Graphs

Description: One of the main objectives of statistics is to distill data into information which can be summarized and easily understood. Data visualizations, which include graphs and charts, are powerful ways of doing so. The purpose of this information session is to provide examples of common graphs and charts, highlight practical advice to help the audience choose the right display for their data, and identify what to avoid and why. An overall objective is to build capacity and increase understanding of fundamental techniques which foster accurate and effective dissemination of statistics and research findings.

Intended Target Audience: This is an **introductory** information session; it may be too basic for advanced data users.

Language, Dates, Times, and Registration Links

- English: April 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Time
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iww2E_RZS2yyaSUZEcRT_Q
- French: April 28, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Time
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K2MgJUJkSumA1GIMZjkluQ



Description: This webinar will provide you with an overview of the Canadian Housing Statistics Program (CHSP) and its key deliverables. The CHSP is an innovative data project that leverages existing data sources and transforms them into new and timely indicators on Canadian housing. Topics covered by the program include characteristics of residential properties (assessment value, property type, period of construction, living area) and their owners (including income, age, residency, and immigration status, legal-type of non-individual owners).

Intended Target Audience: This is an **introductory** webinar; it may be too basic for advanced data users.

Language, Dates, Times, and Registration Links

- English: April 27, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1DLq_T84QLufKz8JcuUHSg
- French: April 27, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LXW903nT_qtzKxJL_qOIA

Once on the registration page, the language that is displayed can be modified using the option at the bottom of the web page. Joining a webinar is really simple, using Zoom. All you need is a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. You can also join by telephone only. We recommend that you join the session at least 5 minutes before the scheduled starting time.

These sessions are offered by the Data Service Centre. Some of the services we offer include:

- assisting data users with simple and complex data requests;
- offering standard and customized workshops for data users of different levels of expertise;
- engaging in outreach activities through webinars, newsletters and presentations.

If you have any questions about these sessions or the Data Service Centre, please feel free to contact us:

Outreach Program / Collection and Regional Services Branch, Statistics Canada / Government of Canada
statcan.westinfo-ouestinfo.statcan@canada.ca

Kinbrace job opportunity - Beyond Refuge Coordinator

The goal of the Beyond Refuge program is to tighten the weave of Canada's social fabric by bringing together, with their strengths, those who are displaced (refugee claimants) with those who are settled (Canadians), moving us beyond stereotypes through the transformative power of relationships.



Closing date: Friday 30 April 2021, 5 pm PDT

Learn More / Apply

<https://kinbrace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Beyond-Refuge-Coordinator-Job-Posting-Kinbrace-2021-04-12-Final.pdf>